



New Zealand recycles old computers for free September 4, 2006

Saturday, September 2nd, Wellington held a computer recycling day for free hosted by computer maker, Dell. Now Auckland is looking to host one of their own.

During the recycling day, sponsored by Environment Ministry and Computer Access New Zealand Trust, Dell New Zealand took in more than 30 tonnes of obsolete equipment by 1,200 people at Wellington's Westpac Stadium. Instead of the equipment going to a landfill where it is unable to decompose and will leak chemicals into the ground, 97% of all equipment collected will be recycled.

Susan McGregor, an Auckland City Council spokesperson, said: "There is a regional forum looking into waste disposal; but to date there is only a scheme for hazardous material to be collected separately by the council. It [the council] would welcome computer companies taking some responsibility for disposing of old computer ware."

Dell has indicated it will hold another PC clean up next year.

According to Dell, out of the 6.3 million New Zealand computers, 250,000 of them are old and obsolete, mainly because most computer owners, according to a survey, will

upgrade their computers every two to five years.

Sydney, Australia had recently hosted one of their own computer recycling days; however Wellington's event was four times more successful.

New Zealand woman survives being run over by train September 5, 2006

A New Zealand woman who lay down between railway tracks and had a freight train run over her is "incredibly lucky", sustaining only minor injuries, according to Sue Foley, spokeswoman for the railway company, Toll Holdings.

The driver saw the woman lying in between the tracks while the train was travelling at about 20 km/h. Despite the slow speed of the train, the driver was unable to stop the train before it ran over the woman. "By the time he stopped the train and walked back down the line, she popped out from under the third wagon," said Mike Lawton, acting sergeant for Feilding police.

The woman was flown to Palmerston North Hospital after complaining about sore elbows and shoulders and receiving minor injuries.

The driver of the train has been offered counselling while he has been taken off driving duties.

Police and the train operator would not

comment on why the woman was lying between the tracks.

Teenager sentenced to four years for manslaughter September 6, 2006

15-year-old teenager, Ngatai Reweti was sentenced and jailed today at Auckland's High Court for four years after killing Christopher Currie by throwing an eight kilogram chunk of concrete at Auckland's Southern Motorway.

Currie, from Taupo, was driving along the Auckland Southern Motorway with his friends when the concrete smashed through his windscreen from the Princes Street, Otahuhu over-bridge, killing Currie instantly.

Reweti was originally convicted of the murder of Currie on August 19, 2005 but in July, 2006 a jury overturned this conviction and instead of murder charged him with manslaughter.

Justice Winkelmann, during the sentencing, said: "Reweti's actions were serious and of breathtaking stupidity worthy of condemnation." She said it was a mindless act that killed Mr Currie and irreparably damaged the lives of others.

Winkelmann has suggested that he should serve his sentence at a youth justice residence and said that it was not premeditated unlike what the crown said.

Currie's family are outraged at the sentence. "We feel let down by the justice system. I feel the judge has disrespected us as good people and good people all over New Zealand," said Wayne Currie, father of Christopher Currie.

Reweti's family had said that Ngatai was gentle and loving but the deputy principal from his school said that he was often absent and very challenging. Reweti had taken full responsibility for the killing even though he had been smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol the day before Currie died.

Aaron Perkins, crown prosecutor, said: "The sentence should deter others from committing such acts and people should be able to travel on the roads without the fear of a missile being thrown and the consequences of that."

New Zealand state house worth \$2 million September 7, 2006

A state house, owned by Housing New Zealand, in Glen Innes, Auckland is worth NZ\$2 million, the most expensive state house in New Zealand. There were also three other houses in Auckland worth more than 1.4 million.

Altogether there were 104 houses that were worth more than \$700,000. Other high priced houses includes: A Lower Hutt house at \$580,000, a Christchurch house at \$690,000 and an Invercargill house at \$520,000.

The high price of the \$2 million house is mostly because of the land where it is situated.

Phil Heatley, National Member of Parliament and National's housing spokesman, said: "The properties should be sold to find homes for more than 11,000 families on Housing NZ's waiting list. In Auckland alone, the

minister could trade the top four state houses, worth \$6.3 million, and buy 16 state houses at average Auckland prices."

Since 2002 Labour has either sold or disposed of 1,200 state houses, according to Heatley.

Chris Carter told Parliament yesterday: "The tenants of the \$2 million home have been there for eight years. That speaks volumes about the urgency this Minister attaches to the growing waiting list."

"National wants to see a tougher line taken with those who repeatedly vandalise HNZ properties and we want to put an end to the situation where households earning more than \$100,000 continue to qualify for state homes," Heatly said.

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